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SOVIET TROOPS GO

53,000 Soviet Soldiers Withdrawn: Bulganin Proposes West Withdrawals

"Watch Our Troops Leave"

— Soviet Invitation

Military and civilian representatives from Britain, France and the USA have been invited to East Germany to attend ceremonies connected with the withdrawal of over 30,000 Soviet troops.

General Sidelnikov, Soviet Chief of Staff, asked the western chiefs of staff themselves to attend the ceremonies and parades connected with the withdrawal, and to pass on similar invitations to the officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers under their command. He also asked the chiefs of staff to pass on such invitations to the British Labour Party, the French Socialist Party, and to trade unions and other organisations in Britain, France and America.

Ceremonies and parades were scheduled for June 20th and 21st in Brandenburg, Magdeburg and Weimar, when the 20th Soviet Air Force Division and other Soviet units would entrain for the Soviet Union.

The Soviet forces in the German Democratic Republic are being reduced by 53,000 men, Marshal A. A. Gretshko, commander of the Soviet forces in Germany, announced on June 14th. 20,000 men were withdrawn last year in the course of the first big Soviet demobilisation measures, and 33,500 further men, including three complete air divisions are now in process of withdrawal, Marshal Gretshko stated.

In letters addressed to Eisenhower, Eden and Mollet, Soviet Prime Minister Bulganin urged on June 7th that the western powers should help relaxation by also withdrawing some of their troops from West Germany.

In his letter to President Eisenhower, Prime Minister Bulganin stated in part:

"The Soviet Government has decided to take the initiative, and, without waiting for an agreement on disarmament, to decrease the armed forces of the Soviet Union by the important figure of 1,200,000 men, in addition to the reduction of 640,000 carried out in 1955 . . .

"In connection with this step, three air force divisions and other units, totalling over 30,000 men stationed in the German Democratic Republic will be dissolved. We understand of course that the withdrawal of this number of Soviet troops from Germany does not fully solve the question. This Soviet measure represents, however, only a first step.

"We proceed on the assumption that if the Government of the USA, Britain and France, which also have troops on German soil, themselves take measures to decrease their forces in Germany, this will undoubtedly lay the foundation for more decisive steps in this direction. We believe that such measures on the part of the four powers could later lead to an agreement on a far-reaching reduction of the foreign forces in Germany, or to a withdrawal of the foreign forces from Germany."

At the same time Prime Minister Bulganin wrote to West German Chancellor Adenauer, informing him of the withdrawals of Soviet troops from the German Democratic Republic, and expressing the hope that similar withdrawals from West Germany would help to solve the problems of reunification. Prime Minister Bulganin urged the West German Government not to allow developments in West Germany which could lead to an intensification of the arms race.

The Soviet troops withdrawals from East Germany, and proposals

(cont. on next page)

Guns Go Too

Marshall Gretshko on Soviet Withdrawal

The thousands of Soviet troops now leaving the German Democratic Republic will take all their arms and equipment with them, Soviet Commander Marshal Gretshko stated on June 14th.

In an interview with a correspondent of ADN, the East German news agency, Marshal Gretshko said that during 1955, 20 battalions of Soviet troops with a total strength of 20,000 men had been withdrawn from the German Democratic Republic and had returned to the Soviet Union, where they were demobilised. The present withdrawals would affect 33,500 men, who would take all their technical equipment such as guns, tanks and

other weapons back to the Soviet Union for demobilisation.

The withdrawal of these troops would of course represent a saving for the German Democratic Republic, Marshal Gretshko said, since it would lead to a further reduction in the already very limited financial contribution paid by the Republic under treaty arrangements for the upkeep of the Soviet troops stationed in the German Democratic Republic.

Marshal Gretshko stated in the interview that foreign press men would be welcomed at the withdrawal ceremonies, and would be able to speak freely with the Soviet soldiers due for demobilisation.

(cont. from preceding page)

SOVIET TROOPS GO

for a corresponding reduction of foreign forces in West Germany were greeted by many West German politicians and newspapers, including many who have, in the past, always described Soviet peace steps as "red propaganda".

The influential right-wing Hamburg newspaper "Die Welt", for instance, stated in a leading article on June 18th:

"Bulganin's proposal is of great importance. If it is possible to reduce, step by step, the forces which confront one another in Germany, that could prove to be the start for new negotiations which could help to bring to new life the so-called Eden Plan for a zone of reduced tension in Germany, which could later be enlarged beyond Germany's frontiers; the forces on both sides should be limited by treaty, and mutually controlled. Such a regrouping of troops was once proposed years ago, when Mr. Kennan, leader of the Planning Department in the American State Department, proposed a withdrawal of the Russian and American troops into the frontier districts of Germany.

"A limitation of the German troops in the (West German) Federal Republic and the Soviet Zone (German Democratic Republic) could also be considered in the framework of a further agreement, if Moscow was ready to consider this as the beginning of new negotiations on Germany and not simply as an isolated measure of disarmament... The difficult question of the recognition of the Soviet Zone Government could be avoided if the treaty partners were to be NATO or Western European Union on one side, and the Warsaw Pact powers on the other side. The 'sovereignty' of the two German partial states would not be affected.

"It is clear that there are opportunities which have not yet been utilised to get the negotiations going again... Bulganin's letter shows that the Russians too do not want a severance. It would therefore be false to reject this proposal without finding out what opportunities it presents."

Prime Minister Bulganin's initiative was also welcomed by Herbert Wehner, foreign affairs expert of the Social Democratic Party in the West German Parliament. In an interview published in the Moscow "Pravda" on June 13th, Herr Wehner stated:

"The Government of the USSR, by beginning to reduce the number of troops stationed on German soil, has taken a path which can be very important for the peaceful solution of the German problem. The reduction of the strength of those foreign troops still stationed on German soil, and a fixing of maximum figures for troops in both halves of Germany could be measures leading to the conclusion of a security treaty. Such a development must be welcomed and aided in the interests of the peaceful solution of the German problem."

HOLIDAYS FOR CHILDREN

Preparations in Democratic Germany

More than two million children will enjoy special summer holidays arranged by the trade unions, schools and other organisations in East Germany this summer, it was recently announced in Berlin.

670,000 children will spend three weeks in about fifty Young Pioneers' camp and more than half a million will go to factory holiday camps and homes in the mountains and at the sea-side. For the first time this year the agricultural cooperatives and machine and tractor stations have their own children's holiday camps.

About half a million children will go on walking tours organised by the schools and about 30,000 younger children will learn swimming.

More than 50,000 West German children have also been invited to spend their holidays in East Germany, and there will be about 700 small foreign guests, from France, Norway, Italy, Mongolia, Poland, Denmark, Bulgaria and other countries.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic has allocated the sum of 50 million marks to subsidise children's holiday camps, and the factories have also set aside very

Public Health Figures

Over 25 thousand million marks were spent on social insurance, labour protection, convalescent and pensioners' homes during the First Five Year Plan period, said Herbert Warnke, Chairman of the Free German Trade Union Federation in his report on June 15th 1956.

A further 15 thousand million marks were spent on reconstruction and new building of hospitals and clinics. 175 new polyclinics, including 42 factory polyclinics, were built in the towns, and 299 cottage hospitals and over 4,000 district nurses' centres in country districts.

The number of persons sent on convalescent holidays in 1955 was double the number in 1951.

Between 1951 and 1955 the accident rate at work was reduced by 10 per cent and the incidence of deaths at work reduced by 30 per cent. This was in striking contrast to the position in West Germany, Herbert Warnke pointed out, where the accident rate was nearly 50 per cent higher in the first half of 1955 than in the first half of 1951.

large sums for this purpose from general and trade union funds.

Special attention is paid to the day camps which will be open again this year during July and August on the outskirts of the bigger cities. The day camp in Berlin-Buch, for instance, will have an open-air theatre, a puppet theatre and a television room, a Red Indian village and a bathing pool.

For all these holidays parents have to pay only a nominal fee. Three weeks' holiday at the sea or in the mountains costs a maximum of 30 marks per child, and for factory trade union members there is a standard rate of 12 marks for the first child, 8 marks for the second and 5 marks for the third. In the day camps there is a charge of one mark for a three weeks' session, which includes fares and a mid-day meal for five days in the week.

In West Germany the government has this year again provided only 3 million marks' subsidy for children's holidays, and the cost to parents — between 250 and 400 marks for a three weeks' holiday — is beyond the reach of millions.

VISITORS' BOOK

Thousands Visit Democratic Germany

Kim Ir Sen, Chairman of the Cabinet of the Korean People's Democratic Republic, paid a visit to East Berlin and the German Democratic Republic from June 7th to 13th. Among those accompanying him were Pak Den Al, deputy chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Workers' Party, and Nam Ir, Foreign Minister.

During its visit the Korean delegation spent a day with the Korean schoolchildren and students who are studying in Dresden, and saw a number of factories, agricultural production cooperatives and cultural centres.

A joint communique, issued on June 12th by the Governments of the German Democratic Republic and of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, emphasised mutual agreement on important problems affecting both countries. Agreements on economic and cultural cooperation and on radio communications were also signed.

Other foreign guests who visited the German Democratic Republic during May and June 1956 included: Ibrahim El Mufti, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry of the Sudan, who arrived in Berlin on May 13th for talks with Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl, Foreign Minister Dr. Lothar Bolz and State Secretary for Foreign and Home Trade, Kurt Gregor;

A group of Egyptian doctors, headed by Dr. Nour El Din Taraf, Egyptian Minister of Health, who arrived on May 27th and made a tour of medical institutions in the German Democratic Republic;

Members of the Austrian Chamber of Trade, who were in Berlin from May 22nd to June 5th for discussions with the East German Chamber of Foreign Trade on details of the 1956 trade agreement between the two countries;

General Abd el Fattah el Bendary, Governor of Cairo, and the Deputy Director of the Cairo Medical Department, who arrived for talks with

Heinrich Rau, East German Minister for Foreign and Inner Trade, and with Friedrich Ebert, Lord Mayor of East Berlin, on June 3rd;

Manuel Farina, Trade Representative of the Republic of Uruguay, who met Kurt Gregor, State Secretary for Foreign and Home Trade, for discussions on extension of trade between the two countries early in June;

A group of Polish lawyers, headed by Professor Stanislaw Planski, who arrived in East Germany early in June to make a study of the East German Youth Law and correctional homes for juvenile delinquents;

A Bulgarian delegation headed by Stanko Todoroff, Minister for Agriculture, which arrived in Berlin on June 12th to take part in discussions on agricultural cooperation between the two countries.

About 1100 foreign guests, amongst them nearly 600 from France, attended the memorial ceremonies at the Buchenwald concentration camp near Weimar early in June.

"FREE DOENITZ" — Say Neo-Fascists

Below we reproduce a copy of a leaflet distributed in thousands of copies in West Berlin. Admiral Doenitz, subject of the leaflet, was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment on October 1st 1946 by the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg. He had been found guilty of war crimes and crimes against peace.

It is interesting to note that the neo-fascist authors of the leaflet link their action with the date June 17th 1953, when nazi veterans and paid American agents attempted to overthrow the government of the German Democratic Republic.

The meeting advertised did not take place: so many democratic West Berliners protested that the owner of the hall where it was to have been held cancelled the booking. The West Berlin authorities took no action against those who organised the meeting and distributed the leaflet.

(Translation)

Enough of talking — We want deeds!

FREEDOM FOR DOENITZ

The blameless soldier and officer, Great Admiral Doenitz, has already been confined in the Spandau Occupation Fortress for one year longer than the 10-year sentence imposed on him arbitrarily in Nuremberg by the victors.

We, the front generation and the youth, wish to show the world that we are not a nation of occupation-serfs and characterless rabble.

In the spirit of June 17th 1953, and filled with the heroic courage of the fallen comrades of our history, we espouse the cause of our eternal Germany in a free Europe.

All those who are not eaten up by cowardice, indifference, and prostitution to the occupation powers will join in our

LIBERATION MEETING

at 11 o'clock on Sunday June 10th in Spandau
LONG LIVE GERMANY — EUROPE AWAKE



DRESDEN — ELEVEN YEARS LATER

Rebuilding a Wrecked City

When the city centre of Dresden, one of Germany's greatest artistic and cultural centres, was destroyed in a single air raid in February 1945, nearly 90,000 homes were bombed down and about 35,000 people lost their lives.

Survivors were faced with 10 million cubic metres of rubble, and thousands of people, old and young, went out day after day, cold, hungry and despairing, put in countless hours of backbreaking work, and over the years contributed thousands of marks to clear away these seemingly unending mountains.

Rebuilding began alongside clearance. Tram lines, bridges, electric light, gas and water supply lines had first to be repaired. One by one, the areas cleared of rubble were planted out with grass and garden plots, some temporary and some permanent, and the city began to lose its desert look.

During the early post-war years, work had to centre on the quick repair of less seriously damaged dwelling houses, to house the thousands of homeless people, but after 1949 a big building plan got off to a slow start in the suburbs and in the centre of the city. But it gathered speed after 1951 and by the end of 1955, 12,100 new homes had been built and the fantastic amount of 9 million cubic metres of rubble removed — at a cost of 100 million marks.

About 50,000 square metres of office accommodation have also been

built to replace over a hundred bombed-out administrative buildings, so that homes temporarily used as offices are again available.

Very large sums of money were devoted to building up hospitals and clinics. The rebuilt Johannstadt hospital, for instance, with its up-to-date children's, orthopaedic and surgical clinics, pathological institute, Medical Academy and nurses' training school, now covers an area of about 150 acres.

A number of district polyclinics have also been built and fully equipped; the transformer and X-ray works have been transferred to new buildings, and two fine old-age pensioners' homes and a big communal kitchen have recently been opened.

New creches and kindergartens to accommodate nearly two thousand children have been built by the city administration, and a number of nationally owned factories have built their own clinics and accommodation for children of working mothers.

A most important project has been the extension of the Dresden Institute of Technology, with its many new departments, places for an additional 1,113 students, excellent hostel accommodation for about 1500 students, and workers' and peasants' faculty.

The College of Music, the Institute of Pedagogy and the College of Art

have been rebuilt and there are a number of new institutes, including the Palucca School of Dancing and the Railway Technical School.

Primary and apprentices' schools have been rebuilt and enlarged to accommodate over 3,000 additional pupils.

Dresden's cultural life suffered severely through the loss of its theatres, and a small temporary theatre, later known as the Little Theatre, with 577 seats, was built first. Then followed the light opera house with 807 seats, and finally the big theatre with 1200 seats.

An open-air theatre to seat 5,000 was set up during the winter of 1955/56 and preliminary work has begun on the Semper Opera House, for which the people of Dresden have already contributed over a million marks.

Work has also begun on a concert hall to seat 2,000 for the Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra, which will be part of the planned new House of Culture on the north side of Central Square.

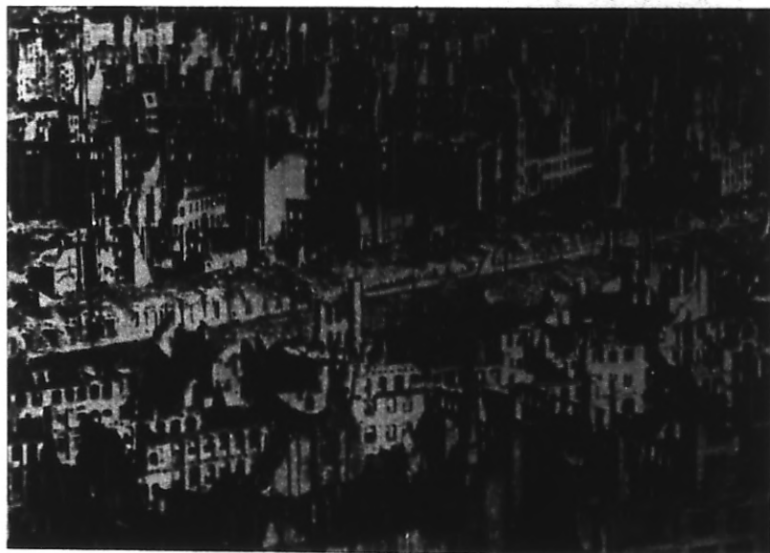
World-famous historic buildings are rapidly regaining their old beauty; the Zwinger, the Catholic Hofkirche, the Semper Gallery and the Italian village, for whose restoration about 18 million marks were allocated, are now almost completely restored.

One of the high points of the anniversary celebrations was the return of the famous Dresden Art collection to the Semper Gallery. This collection, salvaged by the Soviet Army, was restored by Soviet experts and was shown to many thousands of art lovers in Berlin during the winter of 1955/56.

Future plans include homes for about 36,000 people built over an area of 500 acres in the suburbs.

In the city centre two big restaurants, the Cafe Prague and Haus Altmarkt, with seating accommodation for 1200, will be finished this year, and a number of dwelling blocks, smaller and larger shops, a cinema and another restaurant will be completed during the Second Five Year Plan.

A large hotel on the south side of Central Square will be a Third Five Year Plan project.



The city centre of Dresden in 1945

All building plans, both in the city centre and in the suburbs, allow for spacious grass and garden plots, trees and broad streets, so that Dresden will offer all the advantages of a cultured city life combined with colour, space and beauty.

A party from Coventry was amongst the guests from 14 countries who were in Dresden for its 750th anniversary celebrations. Alderman G. E. Hodgkinson, secretary of Coventry Labour Party and himself a former Lord Mayor, brought greetings from Alderman W. L. Thomson, present Lord Mayor of Coventry, to the Lord Mayor of Dresden.

The party was sent by the Coventry-Dresden Friendship Society and included Mr. Edward Dixon, its secretary, and Mr. Brian Tiedman, a toolmaker and member of the city's trades council.

The Lord Mayor of Coventry's greetings said: "Dresden as well as Coventry has suffered the horrors of war.

"Let us freely forgive the actions of the past and go along together in brotherly good will and determined that the horrors of the past shall never happen again."

Lord Mayors and city councillors of Warsaw, Prague, Sofia, Moscow, Kiev and Stalingrad and many other cities were present, as well as guests from western and overseas countries. West German guests included the Lord Mayor of Offenbach, Dr. Hans Kueber, and a number of art historians.



*Above: New homes from the ruins
Below: The Dresden Zwinger, bombed out and now restored*

COVENTRY — DRESDEN FRIENDSHIP

The East Berlin English-language radio programme broadcast the following interview with the members of the Coventry-Dresden Friendship Society:

Question: Could you tell us your general impressions of Dresden since you arrived here?

Answer: We came here to take part in the 750th anniversary celebrations of the city of Dresden, and we are also here on a mission of goodwill for the peace-loving folk of Dresden. We have been able to compare notes on what happened in Dresden and in Coventry. Both towns received much publicity during the war, since both were subjected to bombing.

We are deeply shocked to see the extent of the damage in Dresden and we feel with distress that unless the nations become more sensible in an atomic age there may be a repetition of this horror, but in a much bigger way.

Question: Mr. Dixon, how do you compare the destruction of Dresden with that of Coventry?

Answer: Coventry was of course not nearly so badly damaged as Dresden. But our experiences as individuals were, in a small way, similar to those of Dresden. The raids were terrible, and I am horrified to think what the people of Dresden went through.

It was the thought of this, and after reading the book about Dresden, "Eine Kamera Klagt An!" (A Camera Accuses), which gave me the idea of forming a Coventry-Dresden Friendship Society.

We want to work together with the people of Dresden and we hope that the people of other cities in other countries will get together too. We want to encourage friendship so that such things can never happen again.

Question: Can you give us your impressions about reconstruction in Coventry and in Dresden?

Answer: Well, reconstruction has of course been going along rapidly here and in Coventry too. We have rebuilt to a considerable extent and we have seen the extent of your reconstruction. Of course, as I said, you had more destruction, so we can still see many marks of the bombardment and we know it is going to take you much longer to complete the reconstruction of Dresden than it will take us to rebuild Coventry.

Question: Coming from a city which suffered the same fate as Dresden, perhaps you have some suggestions on how we can go ahead with our construction?

Answer: If the architectural departments of the two cities could exchange notes as to plans and progress in building, maybe we could learn from each other.

2nd Answer: There's something more in it than that, too. We must reconstruct our social life as well as our actual buildings. It is quite obvious that Dresden was a very fine city before the war, with ambitious planning, designs and architectural features; but we must ensure that the creative work which seems to be the urge of the folk of this generation

will not be destroyed again overnight.

Question: What do you think is the best way to go about it — that such senseless destruction can never again happen in any city?

Answer: Well, just now while we are sitting here, the General Council of the British Peace Committee is in session, planning a campaign for disarmament. We feel that if some measures of disarmament could be brought about, this would be a step in the right direction — of preventing another war.

In such an atmosphere there could be greater friendship, more international trade etc. We think that these things would follow and we feel that if we could get an exchange of children between Dresden and Coventry — which we hope will follow — the children can learn about these things, and we shall in this way help make sure that such disasters as the destruction of Dresden can never happen again.

The German Democratic Radio now provides a regular daily service of news and views from the German Democratic Republic. Times of transmission are 8 p.m., 9.30 p.m. and 10.30 p.m. GMT.

The wavelengths are:

30.83 metres, 9730 kilocycles,
41.96 metres, 7150 kilocycles,
49.06 metres, 6115 kilocycles.

"DRY TEXT BOOKS"

East German Education Criticised

Over-stuffed syllabuses and dry textbooks were some of the faults of the school system of the German Democratic Republic criticised by Fritz Lange, Minister of Education, addressing the Teachers' Congress held in Leipzig over the Whitsun weekend.

But Minister Lange did not only criticise faults: he also sketched the astonishing development of the school system in East Germany since 1945, and dealt with the jobs which still lay ahead.

He outlined the tasks accomplished under the Law on the Democratisation of the German School which came into force in May and June 1946 and the steps taken by the

first teachers' congresses held in 1946, 1947 and 1948, which were mainly concerned with the practical application of progressive ideas of German educationists like Diesterweg and Wander and the educational political ideas of Marx and Engels — ideas which had been put forward by progressive thinkers ever since the 1848 revolution and further developed by Lenin.

The 1949 congress set itself a new and important task—an improvement in the general quality of teaching through better teaching syllabuses and new textbooks.

All these congresses paid special attention to building up the basic 8-year compulsory primary school

with specialised teaching in the 5th to 8th years for all children, regardless of whether they were to go on to high school or not.

By 1954 the backwardness in country districts had disappeared and a network of 8-year central schools (serving larger areas and reached by school bus services, ed.) had replaced the old one-class schools where children of all age groups sat in one class-room and were taught by a single village schoolteacher. In the whole province of Mecklenburg, for instance, there remains only one of these one-class schools today. Fritz Lange compared this with the development in Bavaria, West Germany, where there were 799 of these

one-class schools in 1948; the number rose to 1,460 in 1951 and to 1,930 in 1955. According to the 1955 Year Book of the Federal (West German) Republic, he said, only 4,562 of the total 29,173 private and public primary schools in West Germany are complete 8-class schools.

To meet the needs of compulsory 8-year primary education in the German Democratic Republic, thousands of new teachers were trained in short two-year courses (nearly all of whom have since improved their theoretical knowledge through home courses, ed.) There are now 25 per cent more teachers in the Republic, the number of teaching hours per teacher and the number of pupils per class has been reduced. One important result of this is that now only about 7 per cent of all school children have to remain two years in the same class, as against 12 per cent in 1951. There are twice as many high schools as in 1945 and the percentage of workers' and peasants' children attending them has risen from 4 in 1945 to over 50 per cent in 1955.

Amongst a number of serious criticisms, Fritz Lange stressed that there has been too much emphasis on book-learning; school syllabuses were over-stuffed and textbooks written in a dry style which prevented children from using them independently. There had been too many written tests and teachers were not well enough grounded in teaching methods. School teachers and directors have not been left sufficient scope for individual initiative and have been over-burdened with directives and detailed teaching and administrative plans, as well as with out-of-school functions.

Country schools had had to stick too rigidly to the same plans as town schools, thus missing the special opportunities offered by life in the country and exaggerating the tendency for country children to look for work in the towns when they left school.

"The school will only be able to do its job properly", he said, "when those responsible see to it that teachers get time to prepare themselves and concentrate on their main task — teaching and bringing up the children entrusted to them. It must be understood that the main field of activity for the teacher is his work with the children, and that the respect and affection which people give him must be based primarily on his work as a teacher."

Gymnastics and sport—and after them drawing and music—must no

longer be the first subjects to suffer under temporary difficulties (illness of teachers etc.)

"We must also get away from the idea," he added, "that every class must be an exacting task for the children; everything which happens in school does not necessarily have to be labelled 'work'. We talk about Young Pioneer 'work' and Youth 'work'. I personally like to go fishing or hunting, but I do not call it fishing 'work' or hunting 'work', however much I sweat over it."

The most important subject before this year's congress was the rapid changeover from compulsory 8-year to compulsory 10-year (middle school) education, with emphasis on technical education which will equip young people of today with the basic knowledge they need in the approaching atomic age.

By 1960 it is planned to have 40% of all pupils between 14 and 16 attending middle schools and by 1965 all boys and girls are to have the minimum ten years' schooling. About 30 per cent will go on to high school and get a minimum of twelve years' schooling.

The underlying principle in the polytechnical education in the middle schools is the combination of theoretical instruction with practical application in the natural sciences. Children must understand the workings of machinery in agriculture and industry, beginning with simple machines and tools in the junior classes and progressing to a working knowledge of more complicated machinery in the 9th and 10th school years. Chemistry and physics instruction must deal with new processes and with the basic principles of electric and atomic power.

Fritz Lange stressed that the main difficulty is at present the shortage of qualified teachers in these subjects, but added that a large number of teachers trained since 1945 are former workers who should have fewer difficulties in preparing themselves for technical teaching. Better technical education of young people going into production will also bring big changes in apprentices' schools, shortening the time of training and thus setting a number of apprentice school teachers free for work in the middle schools.

Children in country schools will have the chance to learn how machine and tractor stations work, about agricultural production cooperatives and peasant trading cooperatives,

and town children will do practical work in the factories themselves.

This increased emphasis on technical subjects will not, however, mean neglect of other branches. Children will continue learning a foreign language and there will be a chance for those who wish to start learning a second foreign language in the seventh year.

Social Democrats Sentenced In "Treason" Trial

Six members of the Socialist Action Association were sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from five months to three and a half years for alleged "leadership of an unconstitutional organisation" in Karlsruhe early in June.

Progress of the trial of the six Social democrats involved — Robert Steigerwald, Karl Woelz, Horst Boje, Fred Loewenberg, Herbert Leonen hagen and Georg Beckmann — had shown that its main object was to extend present suppression of left-wing organisations and democratic bodies to Social Democratic organisations.

Sentences were based on charges which included "influencing through the Communist Party" and "secret association". But witnesses for the defence had brought conclusive proofs that the Socialist Action Association had never been influenced by the Communist Party and that there was no possible ground for the "secret association" charge, since both offices and workers employed by the Socialist Action Association were duly registered with the police and had carried on open political work for a number of years.

Do You Read French?

If you read French and want to find out more about the German Democratic Republic, then there are two things you should do:

1. Read "Nouvelles d'Allemagne", French language monthly published in Berlin. You can get a free specimen copy if you write to "Nouvelles d'Allemagne", Glinka Strasse 13, Berlin W 8.

2. Buy a copy of the special issue of the Paris monthly review "La Nouvelle Critique" published in April and entitled "Découverte de l'Allemagne Démocratique". This splendid 500-page special edition is a mine of information about all phases of life in Democratic Germany, from land reform to literature. It costs 580 French francs in France and 650 francs in all other countries, and can be ordered from "La Nouvelle Critique", 95, boulevard de Sébastopol, Paris (20).

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Everybody knows, or should know, that Hitler helped himself to power in Germany in 1933 with the aid of anti-Semitic propaganda. Everybody knows, or should know, where this ended: in the brutal murder of between five and six million European Jews — men, women and children — for no other reason than that they were Jews.

Now why am I dragging this subject up again? I expect that many readers feel that this is just something out of the history books, not something that concerns us today. But it is, unfortunately, something which does concern us today very much indeed, because there are clear signs that in West Germany things are starting again where Hitler left off.

I should like to give you just a few examples of this.

Synagogue Smashed

A few weeks ago rowdies broke into the synagogue in Dusseldorf, West Germany, and smashed it up. Police said they could find no clues. Last year the memorial tablet on the wall of the synagogue in Konstanz was torn down and smashed. In the past ten years Jewish cemeteries in West Germany have been desecrated no fewer than 300 times. The local police always report that the damage was done by "playing children": but there is no record of these "playing children" ever desecrating Christian cemeteries.

And these offences against inanimate objects are unfortunately symptoms of something much worse.

The few Jews who managed to survive the Nazi extermination campaign in Germany are entitled, under laws passed in the first post-war period, to receive compensation for their sufferings. Time and again West German courts have turned down their applications on the most transparent grounds. I have on my desk a judgment delivered a few months ago by the Restitution Court in West Berlin. It concerns a German woman who was married to a Jew, and who stuck by him through thick and thin, and suffered dreadfully, living underground with him in the last years of the war. Here are a few sentences from this judgment:

"The appellant herself admits that she was not personally exposed to National Socialist measures of force, and that she could have left her husband at any time. However, she chose

to follow him into illegality. Thus her sufferings were the result of her own free decision, and not caused by Nazi measures."

And this cynical judgment, whitewashing the Nazi terror, was handed down only a few months ago. Commenting on the case, Dr. Adolf Arndt, Social Democratic member of the West German Parliament, said: "Judges who give such judgments seem to have lost all capacity to distinguish between right and wrong."

"Aryanised"

Here is another case: A Jewish woman named Johanna Wolfers applied to the Mannheim court for the return of her shop, which had been stolen and "Aryanised" by the Nazis. The court refused the application on the grounds that the shop had been seized by the Nazis as part of a "collective punishment" inflicted on the Jewish community by Hitler.

I could go on for pages giving you similar examples.

But not only is justice denied to the victims of Hitler; the authorities in West Germany have consistently refused to take any measures against the growing anti-Semitism which is spread daily by dozens of newspapers, magazines and books written by old and young Nazis. The return to power of the militarists and the big industrialists in West Germany has brought with it a revival of Nazi racial ideas and racial propaganda: a propaganda which soon expands from the Jews to include negroes, Gypsies, Poles, Russians, and in fact everybody except the supposedly "Aryan" Germans.

I do not want to over-emphasise this new anti-Semitism: there are still plenty of honest, decent people in West Germany, as in all other countries, who oppose it strongly and openly. But anti-Semitism is becoming respectable again, and in many cases gets tacit approval from the authorities and the courts. And this should be a danger signal for all of us who want to ensure that the gas-chambers of Auschwitz are banished from this earth for all time.

Brown Carpeted

When French NATO officers visited the West German city of Nuremberg lately they were put up in hotel

rooms the carpets of which were richly decorated with Nazi swastikas, the West German news magazine "Spiegel" reported on June 13th. In the restaurant the French officers found they were expected to eat with knives and forks stamped "Hotel of the Reich Party Congress", recalling the days when Nuremberg was the scene of the annual Nazi party circus.

Is U. S. a Colony?

The West German Embassy in London is endeavouring to get the Oxford University Press to alter its newly-published atlas of the world, West German Foreign Minister Heinrich von Brentano announced in the Bonn Parliament on June 6th.

He stated that West German authorities objected to the atlas because it showed East Germany as an independent state, the Oder-Neisse line as a permanent frontier, and "the German eastern territories" as a permanent part of Poland.

Unreliable reports state that British Foreign Minister Harold Macmillan will shortly ask West German atlas makers to change their maps so as to show the United States as a British Colony.

Piglet Square

In the past few years local authorities in the German Democratic Republic, acting with more enthusiasm than good sense, have sometimes saddled streets and squares with impossibly unwieldy and unsuitable names. In my travels through the Republic I have noted such monsters as "Street of the Third World Festival of Youth and Students", and "Square of the Fourth Party Congress".

In Poland too they have had something similar. One street in Warsaw, for instance, was officially named "Street of Yugoslav Youth", which led a prominent satirist to enquire whether the city would soon be blessed with a "Street of Turkish Old Age Pensioners" or "Avenue of the Greek Sucklings".

But a recent visitor from Warsaw now brings news of a pleasant street naming. One of the new streets in rebuilt Warsaw now proudly bears the title "Winne-the-Pooh Street", after A. A. Milnes children's classic.

It is an example which I hope will be widely copied.